Plant Pathology Circular No. 12 – Addendum
September 1966

Fl. Dep. of Agriculture
Division of Plant Industry

LEAF BLISTER OF OAK

S. A. Alfieri, Jr.

The basic disease cycle of leaf blister of oak, caused by Taphrina caerulescens (M. D.) Tul., is well documented by C. P. Seymour in Plant Pathology Circular No. 12. This addendum presents supplementary information primarily concerned with the near-epiphytotic proportions of this disease under environmental conditions favorable for its development.

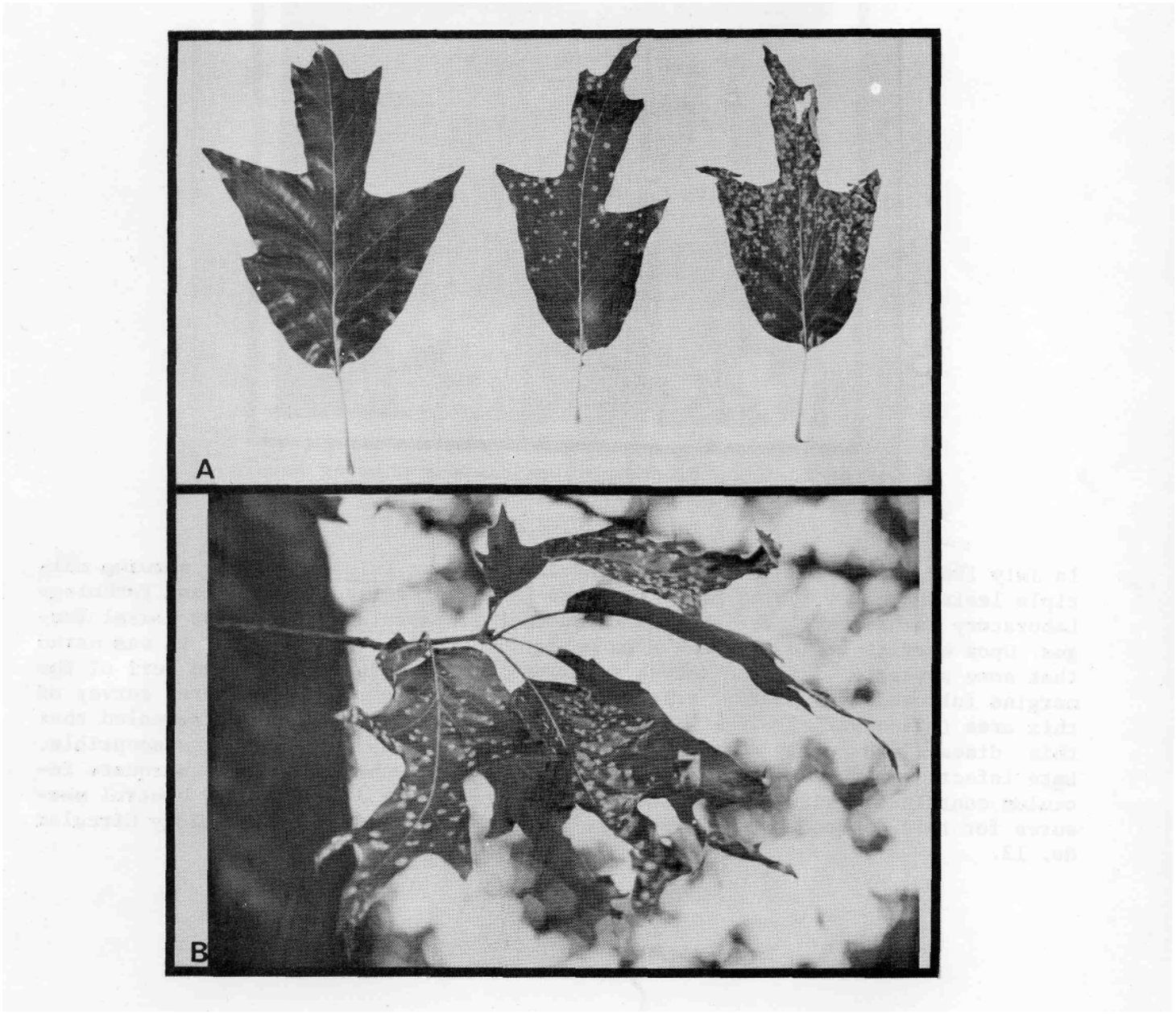

Fig. 1. Leaf blister of oak caused by Taphrina caerulescens (M. D.) Tul.

Fig. 2. Leaf blister of oak disease showing severe leafspots, curl and necrosis.

In July 1966, a specimen of southern red oak, Quercus falcata Michx., showing multiple lesions on the leaves (Fig. 1, A and B) was received in the Plant Pathology Laboratory in Gainesville. It was found that _T. caerulescens was the causal fungus. Upon examining the oak tree from which the specimen was derived, it was noted that some severely infected leaves displayed a decided upward, inward curl of the margins followed by a rapid, total leaf necrosis (Fig. 2). A general survey of this area (Gainesville) with C. P. Seymour, Chief Plant Pathologist, revealed that this disease was fairly common among oaks, red oak appearing most susceptible. Late infection with cool, wet periods during July and the presence of adequate inoculum contributed significantly to the severity of the disease. The control measures for this disease remain the same as presented in Plant Pathology Circular No. 12.